

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Brown et al.
Application No.: 09/666,866
Filed: September 20, 2000
For: IMPROVED LONGITUDINALLY FLEXIBLE
EXPANDABLE STENT
Examiner: P. Prebilic
Group Art Unit: 3738

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Docket No.: S63.2-5605-US04

AMENDMENT

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed March 20, 2003.

Please amend the Application as follows:

In the claims:

Please replace claims 36-50 with the following amended claims:

36. (Amended) A stent comprising:

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a plurality of adjacent undulating circumferential bands, each of the undulating circumferential bands consisting of a plurality of interconnected struts, each strut having a first end and a second end, only at the ends of the struts are adjacent struts connected together, at the first end each strut connected only to one adjacent strut and at the second end each strut connected only to one adjacent strut, each of the undulating circumferential bands having a proximal end region and a distal end region, the proximal end region and the distal end region each having a plurality of end portions; and

a plurality of connecting elements, each connecting element joining end portions of adjacent undulating circumferential bands, each connecting element extending from only a single location on each of the adjacent undulating circumferential bands, wherein the end portions of the adjacent undulating circumferential bands which are joined to one another are not